

MIKETARO

BY ANTONIO O'BRIAN

THIS OL' HOUSE OF MINE

Preface;

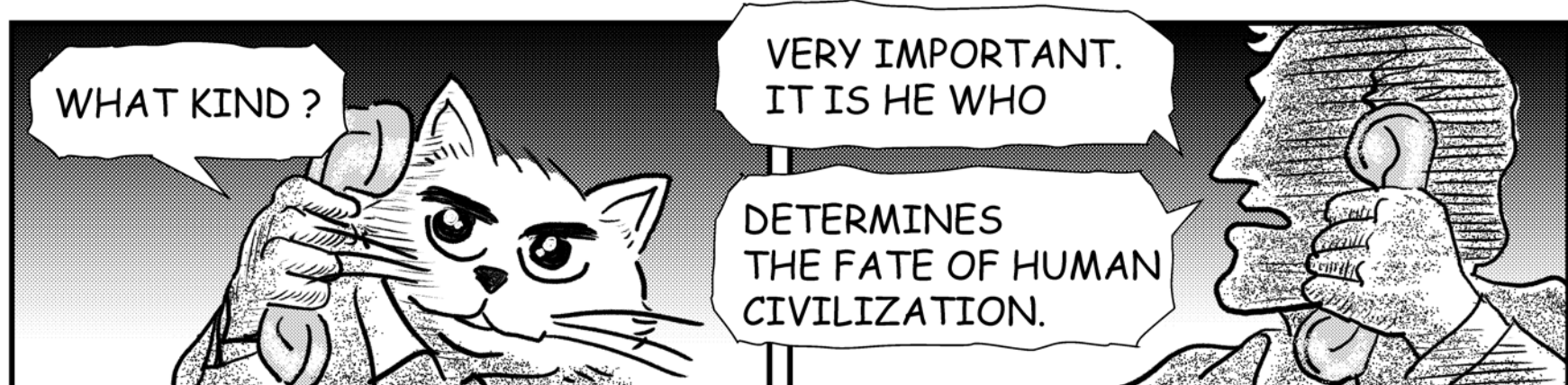
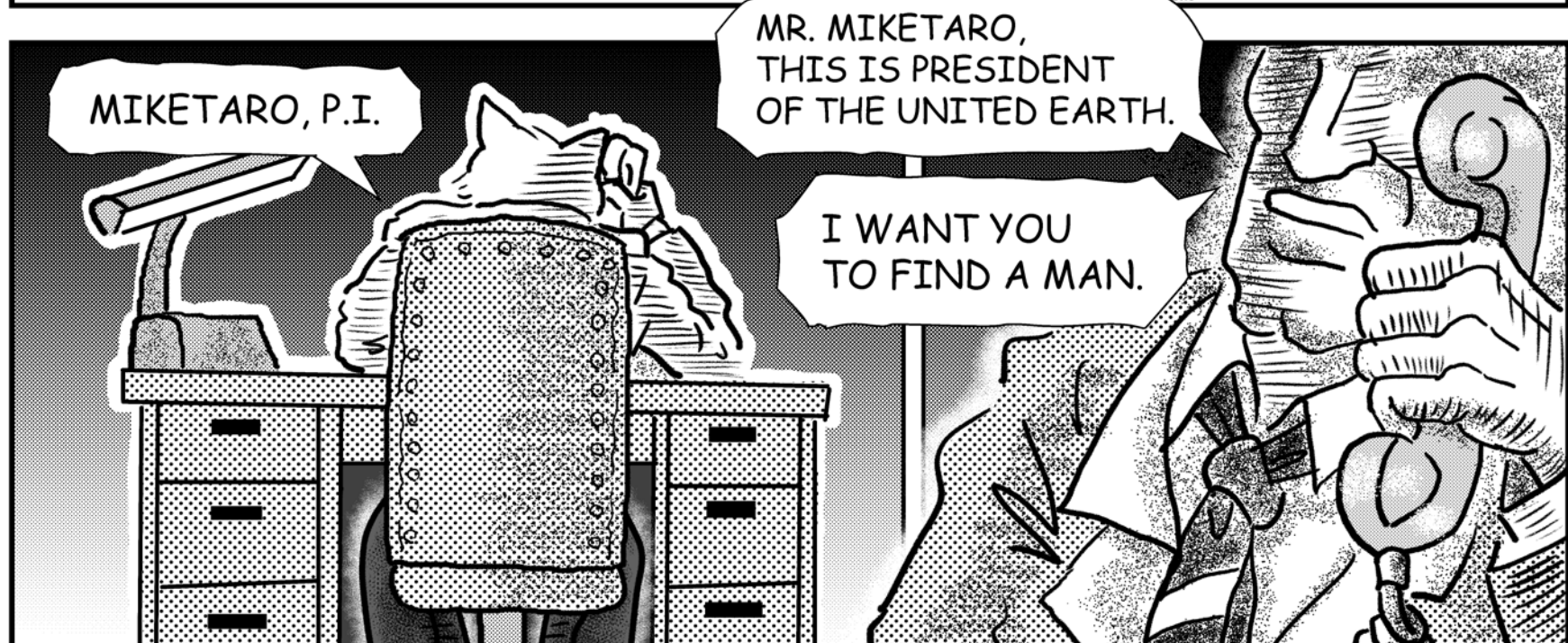
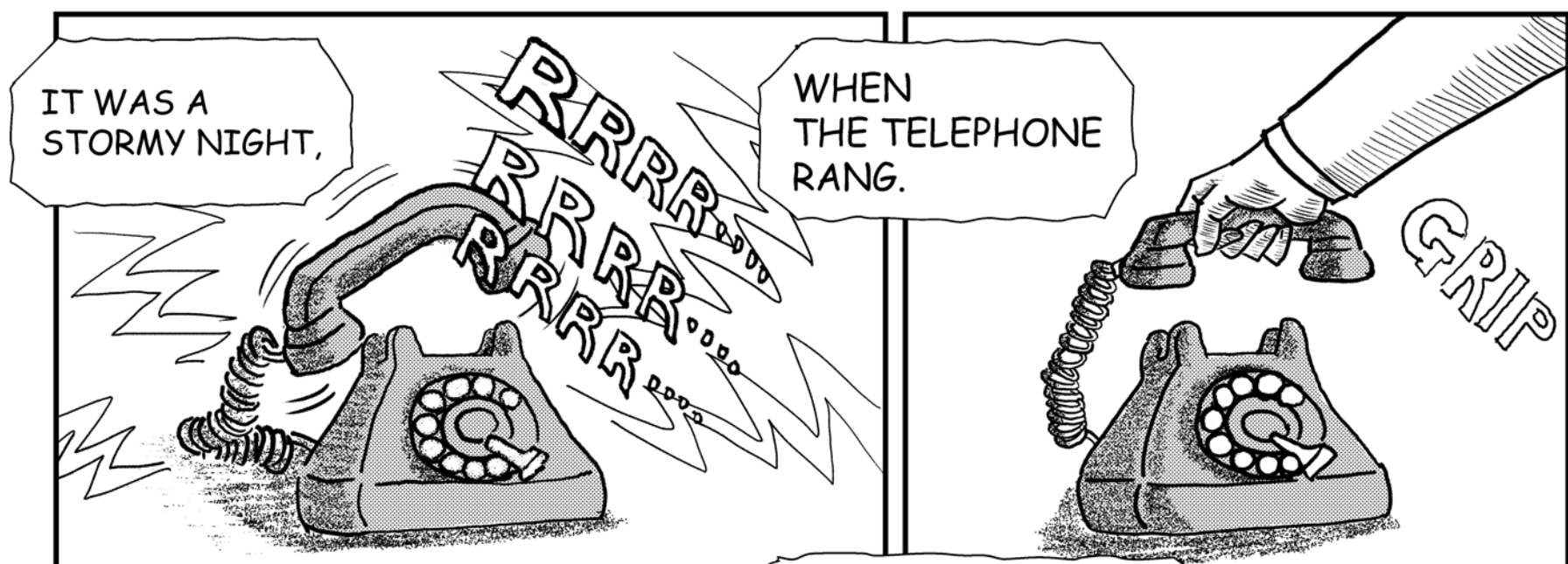
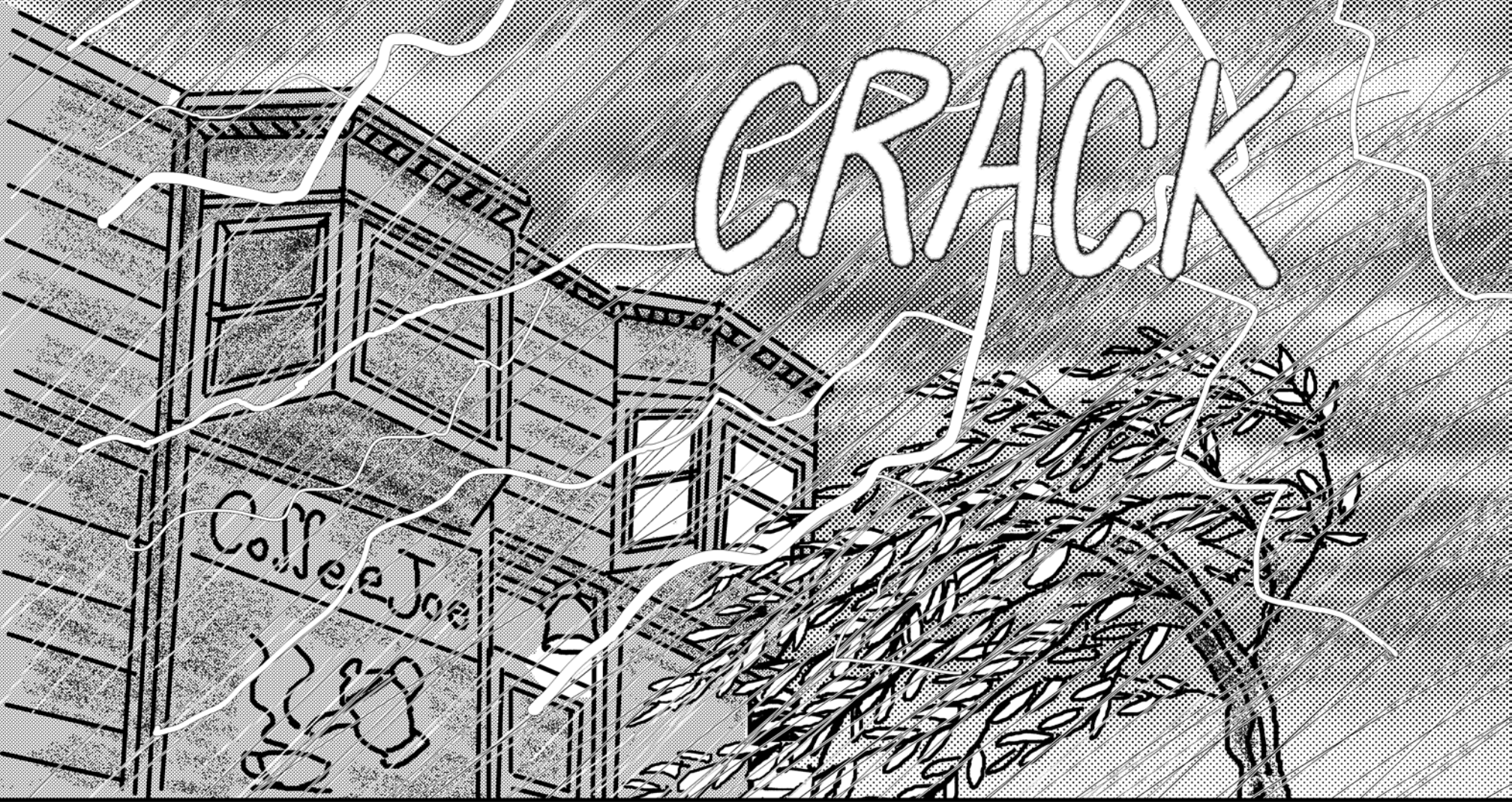
The creation of "MIKETARO; THIS OL' HOUSE OF MINE" is inspired by many arts and artists. The following is an incomplete list: Takamori Asao (Kajiwara Ikki) who electrified Japanese manga world, Tsuji Naoki, Mel Brooks (the laughter kept me from falling into the darkside), Marx Brothers, Kamokawa Tsubame, Naomi Hirahara, Amy Tan, and Maxine Hong Kingston.

(I have no personal acquaintance with anyone listed above.)

Miketaro is a character created for my son's bedtime story. Miketaro is an inaction hero. Strange people and events surrounding him push and shove the titular.

My son is growing up fast, while my time is dwindling down. I hope I can leave some stories to him.

Some of the expressions used in the story may be inappropriate and even offensive from today's point of view. They reflect the points of view of 1970s' socio-cultural structure with which I am familiar. So I beg your pardon and broad-minded tolerance to the story.



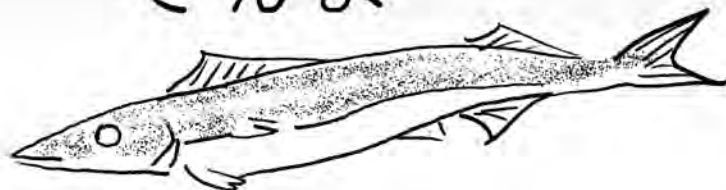
MIKETARO

BY ANTONIO O'BRIAN

THIS OL' HOUSE OF MINE



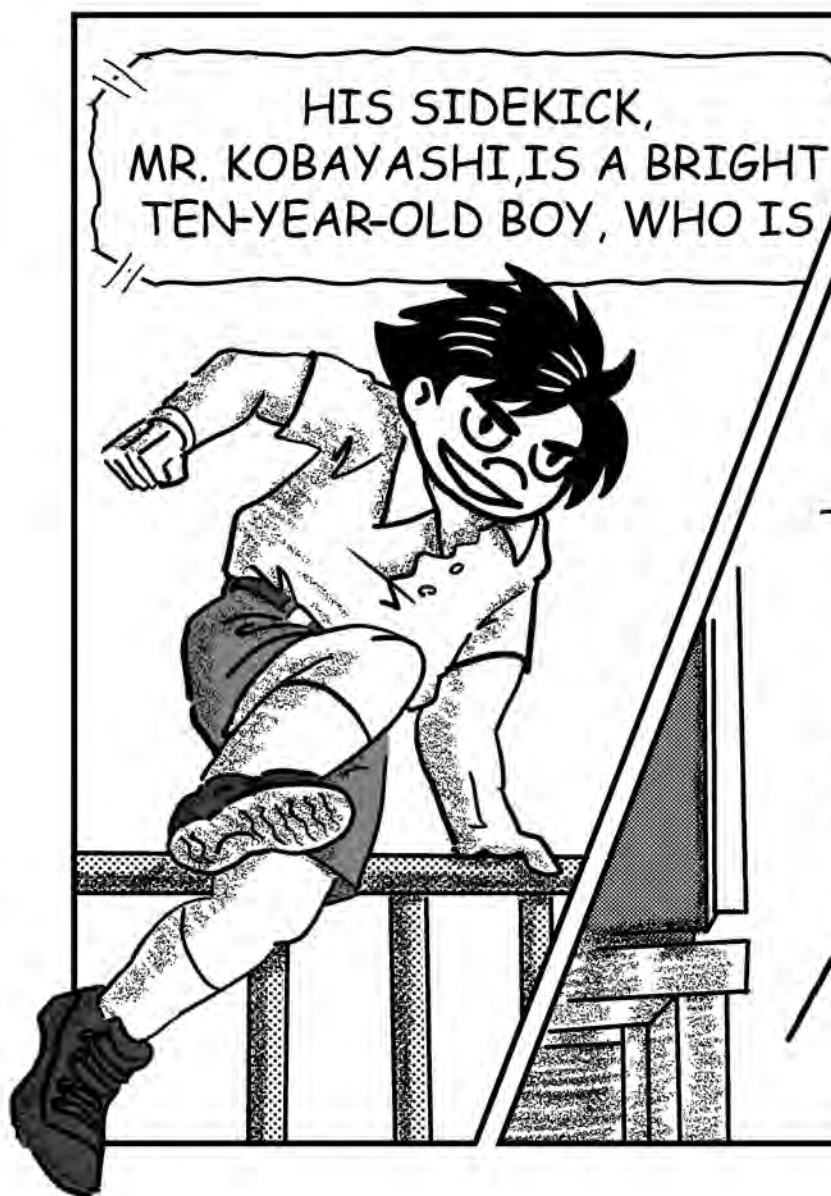
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MIKETARO IS
A PRIVATE
DETECTIVE.



HIS OFFICE IS SOMEWHERE
IN THE BAY AREA.



HIS SIDEKICK,
MR. KOBAYASHI, IS A BRIGHT
TEN-YEAR-OLD BOY, WHO IS

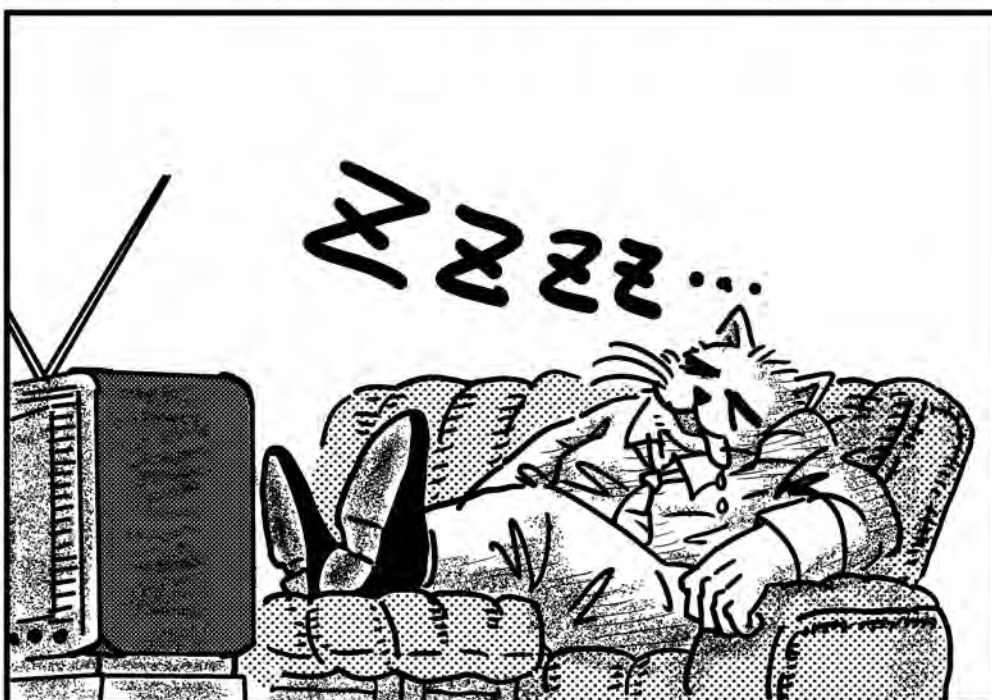


NOT QUITE HAPPY ABOUT WORKING
FOR THE FORMER STRAY, BUT HE KEEPS
HIS MOUTH SHUT FOR HE AMBITIONS
TO INHERIT THE OFFICE SOMEDAY.

BRODIE
DROPS BACK
TO THROW ...

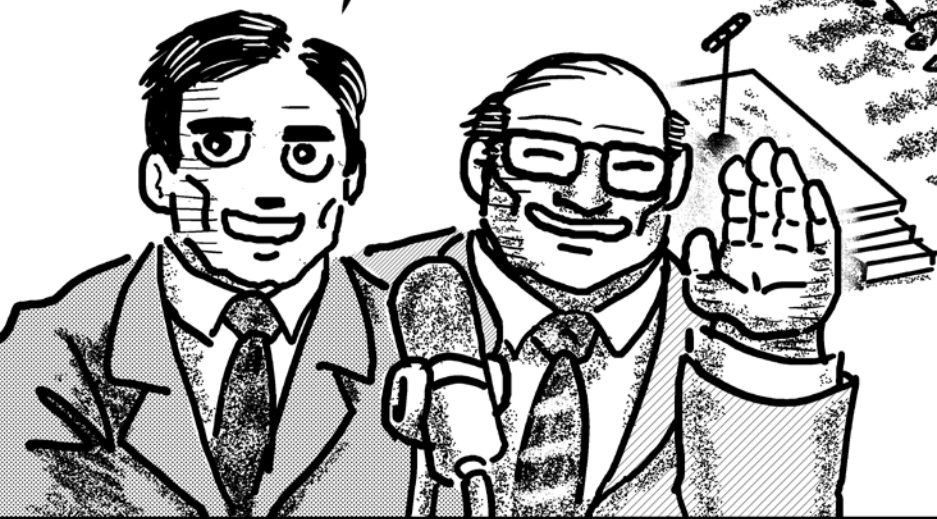
IN A WORLD NOT UNLIKE OURS ...

OLYMPICS, AGAIN.

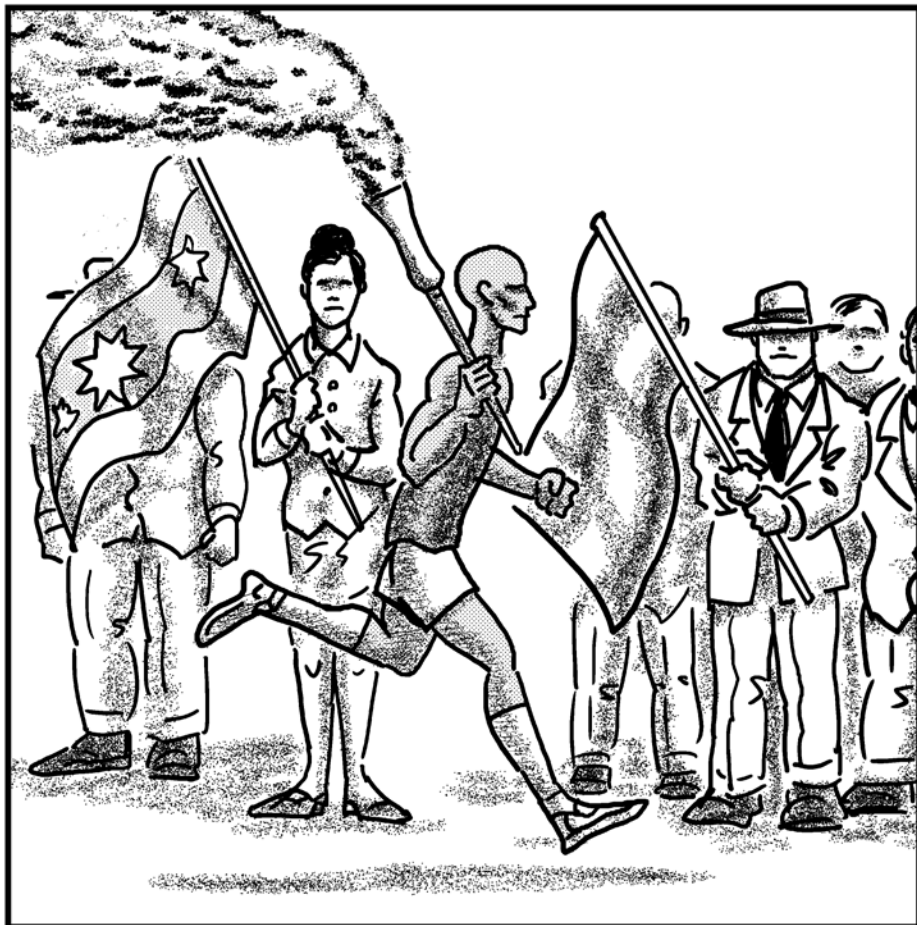


GOOD AFTERNOON,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.
THIS IS JIM FROM
THE OLYMPIC STADIUM.

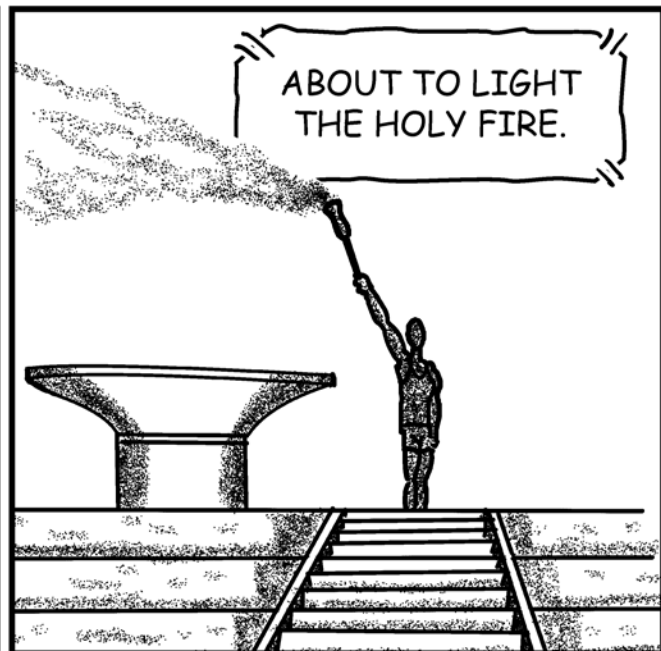
KOYB SPORTS ANALYST
MR. HUAN
IS WITH ME.



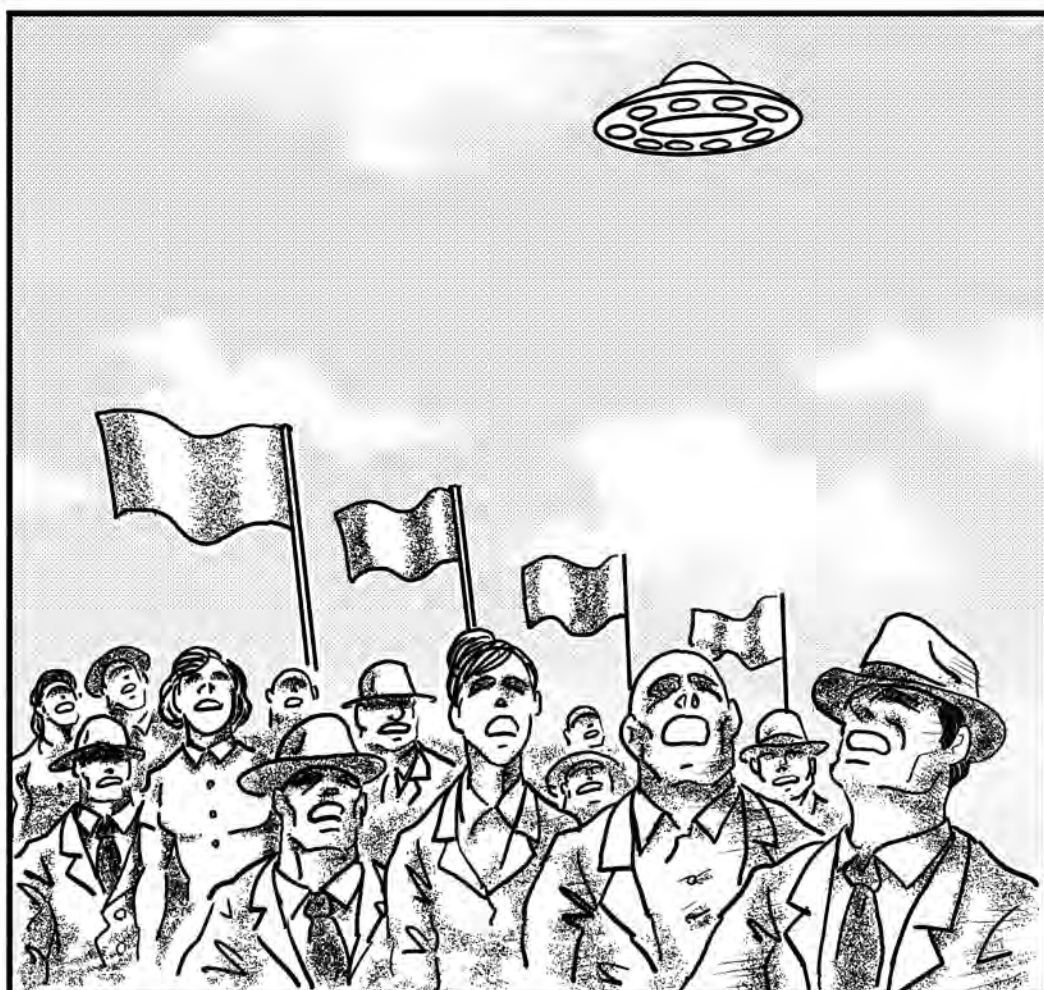
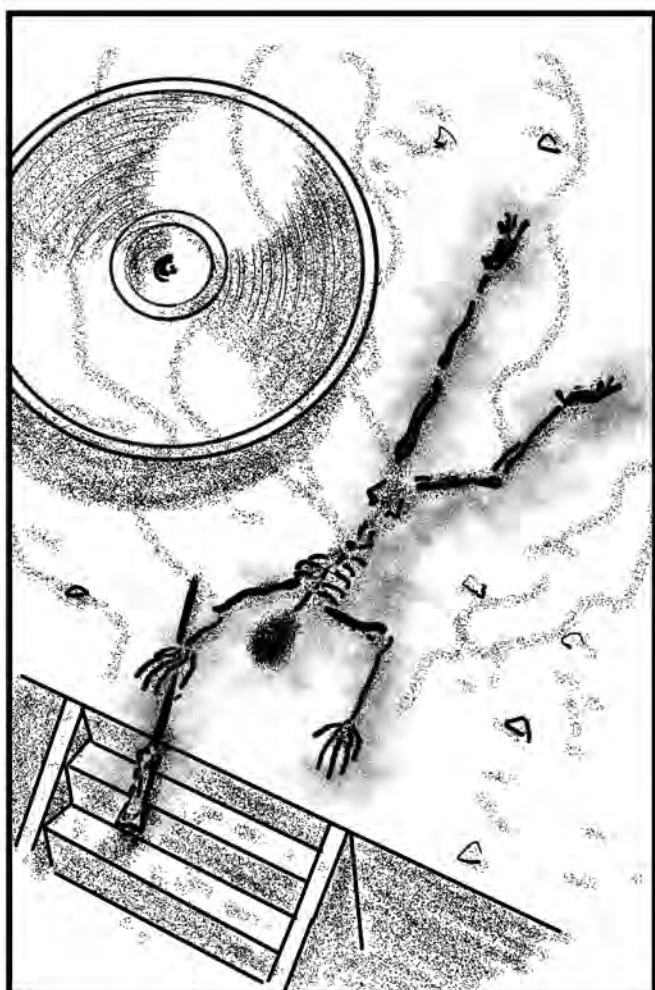
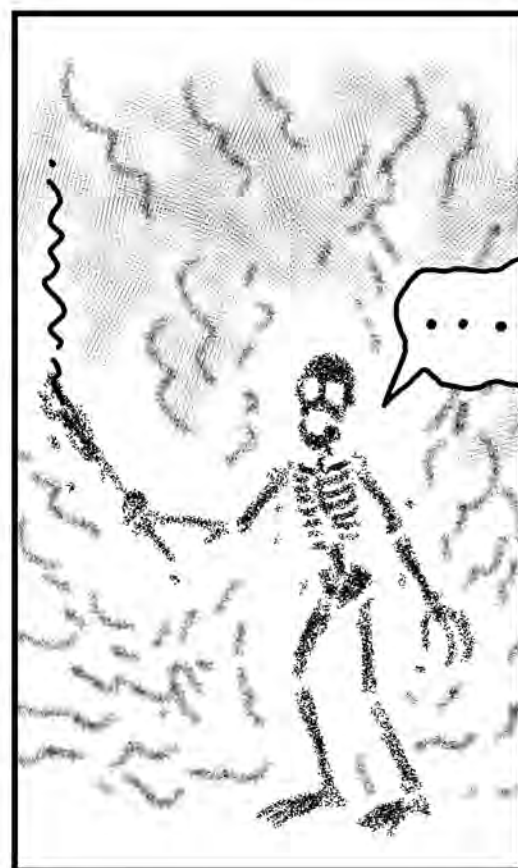
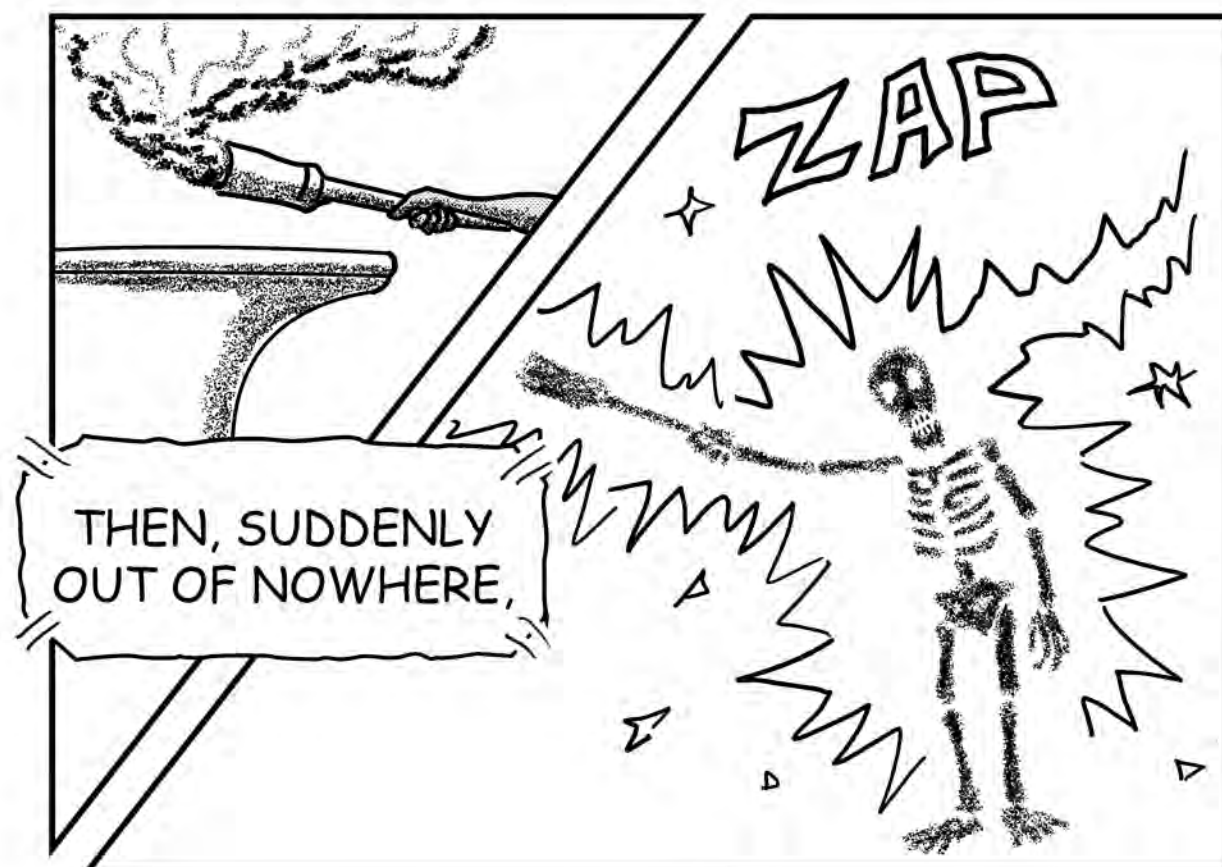
HERE COMES
THE TORCH BEARER.



HE CLIMBS
THE STEPS TO
THE DISH,
AND ...



ABOUT TO LIGHT
THE HOLY FIRE.



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
UNIMAGINABLE THING HAS
JUST HAPPENED. AN UFO
SHOT A STRANGE BEAM AND

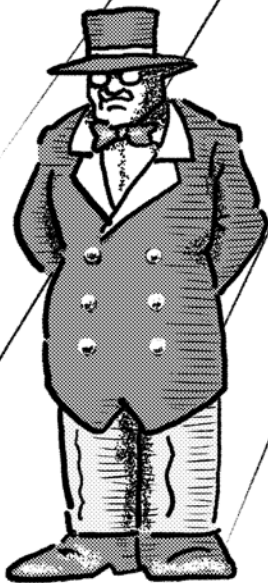
SCORCHED THE
TORCH BEARER.

YES. HE IS
MERA-MERA-TO-
MOETEIRU!

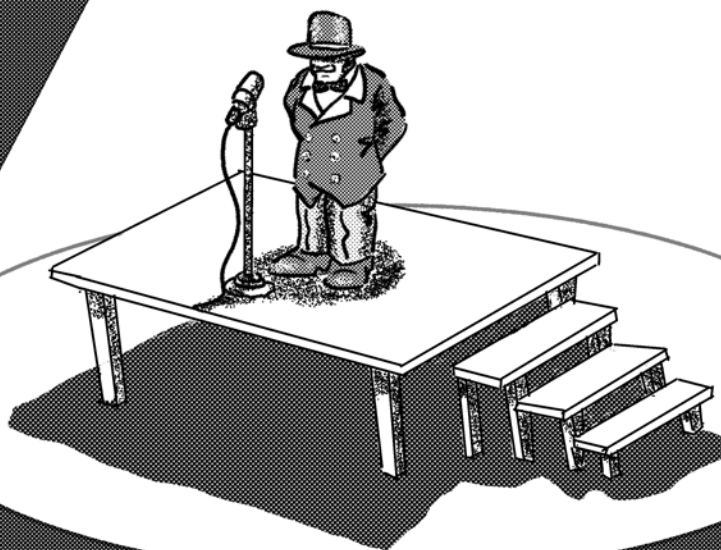
LOOK! SOMETHING
IS COMING DOWN.



IT'S A GENTLEMAN
IN A FROCK COAT.



HE LANDS ON THE
PLATFORM, AND



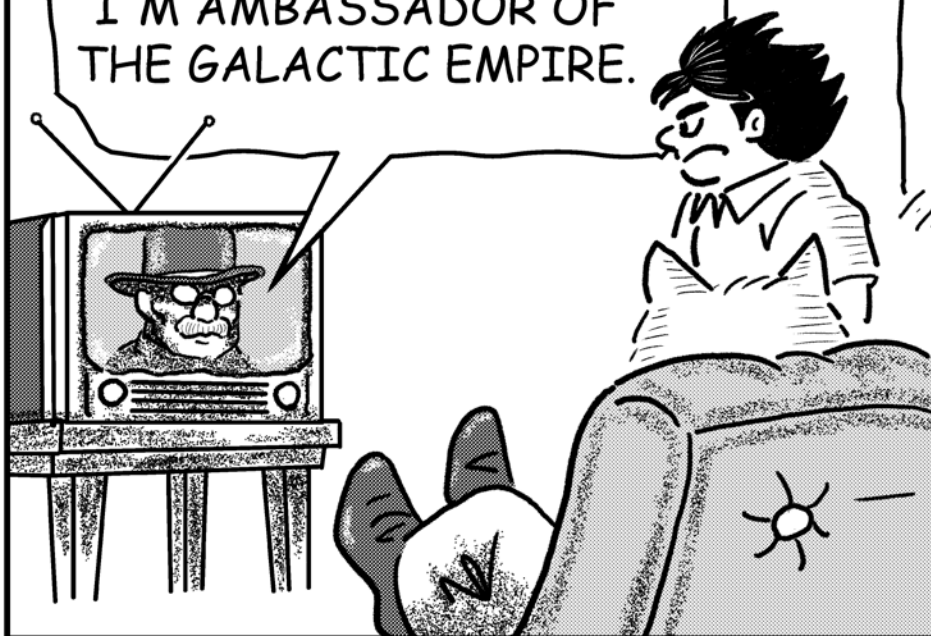
TAKES OUT
SOMETHING.



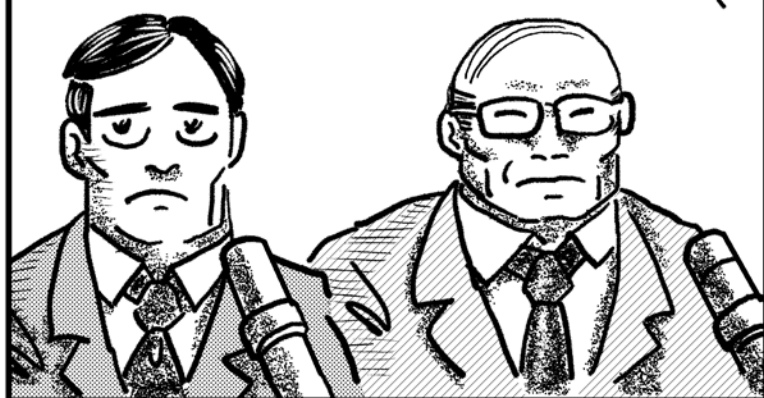
AHEM!



GOOD AFTERNOON,
PEOPLE OF THE EARTH.
I'M AMBASSADOR OF
THE GALACTIC EMPIRE.



PLEASE ALLOW ME TO
PRESENT A MESSAGE
FROM KING ATTILA
TO CONGRATULATE
THE OPENING
OF OLYMPIC GAMES.



DEAR MY FRIENDS OF
THE EARTH. I'M ATTIRA,
THE KING OF THE GALAXY.

CONGRATULATIONS FOR
THE OPENING OF
YET ANOTHER
OLYMPIC GAMES.

SPORTS EVENTS ON EARTH ARE
VERY POPULAR AMONG THE TV
VIEWERS ACROSS THE GALAXY.
THE OLYMPIC GAMES, ESPECIALLY,

RECORD THE HIGHEST RATINGS
AMONG THE EARTH TV PROGRAMS.

LATELY, I CAME TO NOTICE
THAT THE VIEWERS ARE
NO LONGER SATISFIED WITH
JUST WATCHING THE GAMES.
IN FACT, THERE ARE QUITE A
FEW GOOD GALACTIC ATHLETES

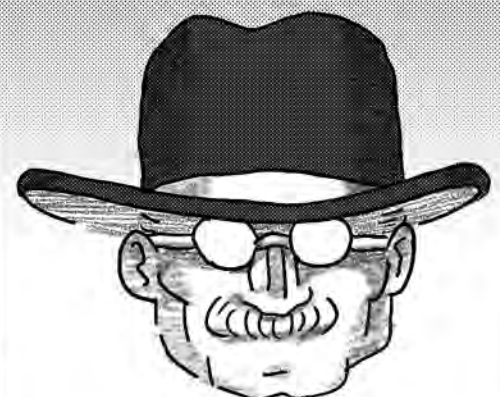
WHO WANT TO PARTICIPATE.
HENCE, I WILL SEND OUR
DELEGATES TO COMPETE
AGAINST EARTH PEOPLE IN
THE OLYMPIC GAMES

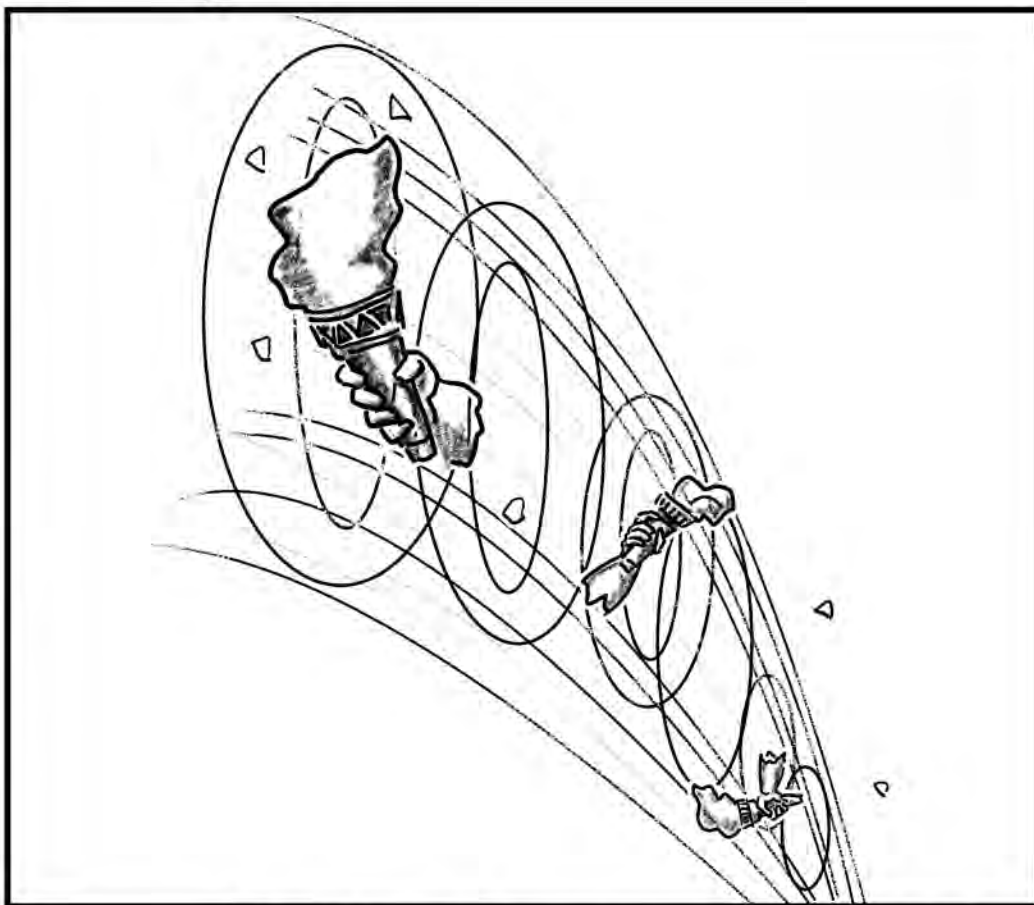
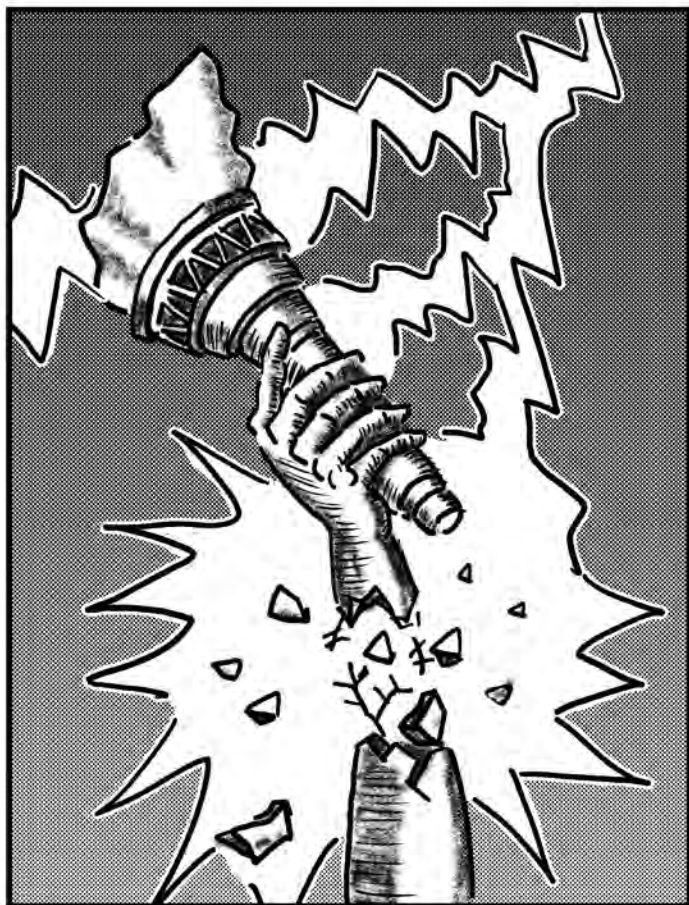
UNDER THE FOLLOWING
CONDITIONS.
1. GALACTIC
DELEGATES WILL
COMPETE IN EVERY GAMES.

2. IF EARTH PEOPLE WIN ANY SINGLE
MATCH, WE WILL WITHDRAW
THE GALACTIC BATTLE FLEET AND
LEAVE THE EARTH.

3. IF EARTH PEOPLE FAIL TO
WIN ANY SINGLE MATCH,
THEN WE WILL KILL
ALL THE HUMANS.

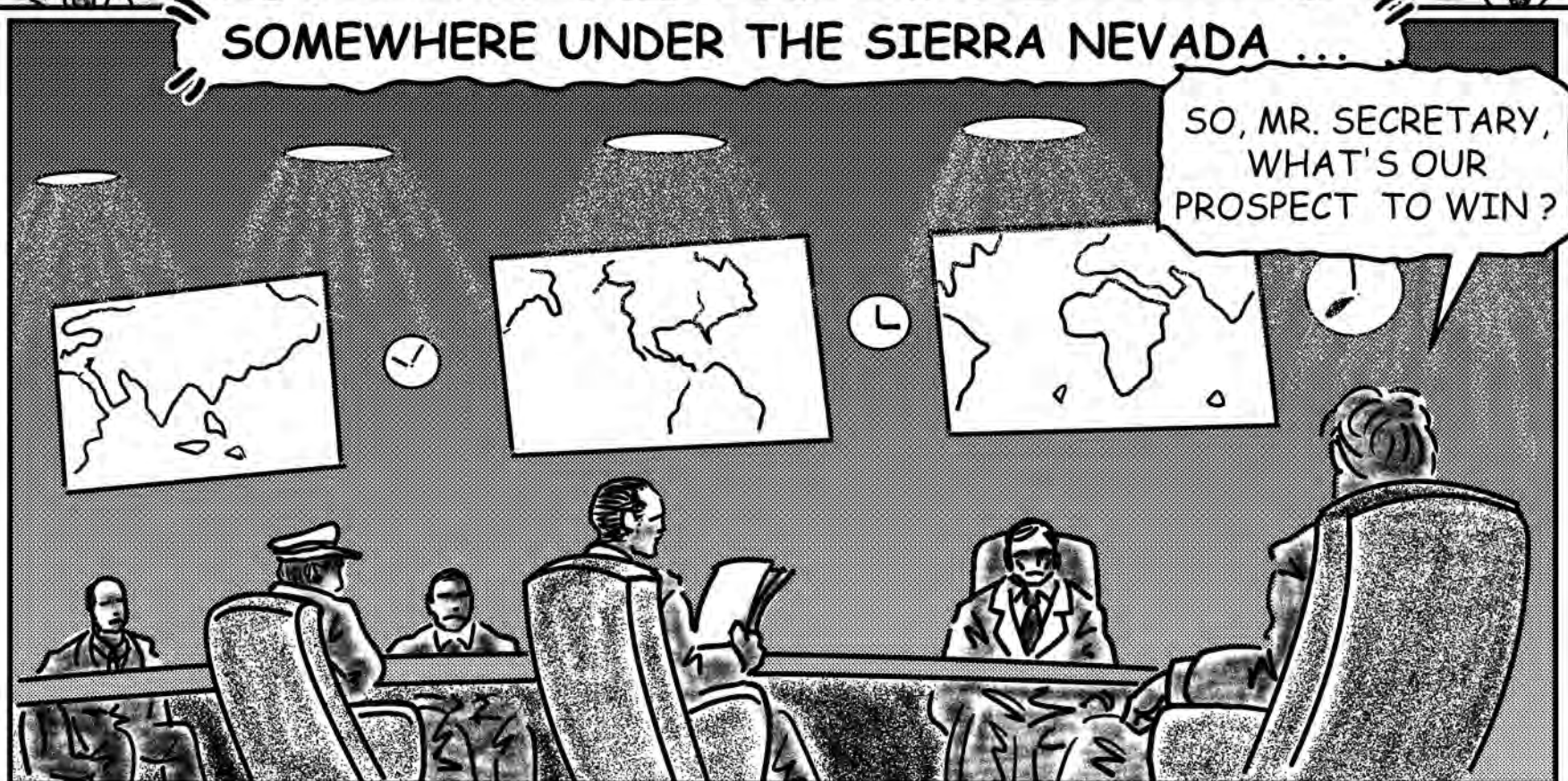
AH, MR. AMBASSADOR,
IF WE LOSE EVERY GAME
... ?







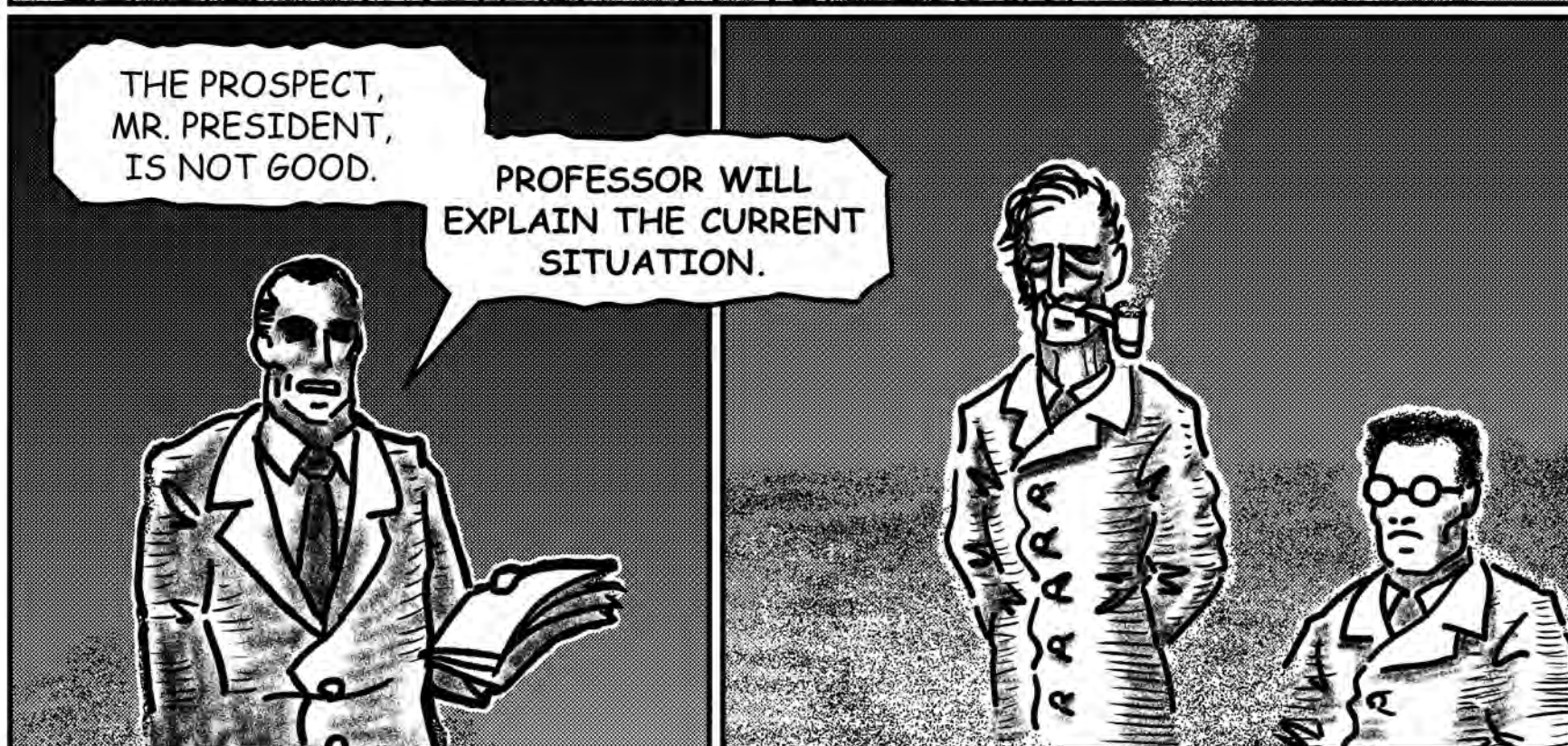
SOMEWHERE UNDER THE SIERRA NEVADA ...



SO, MR. SECRETARY,
WHAT'S OUR
PROSPECT TO WIN?

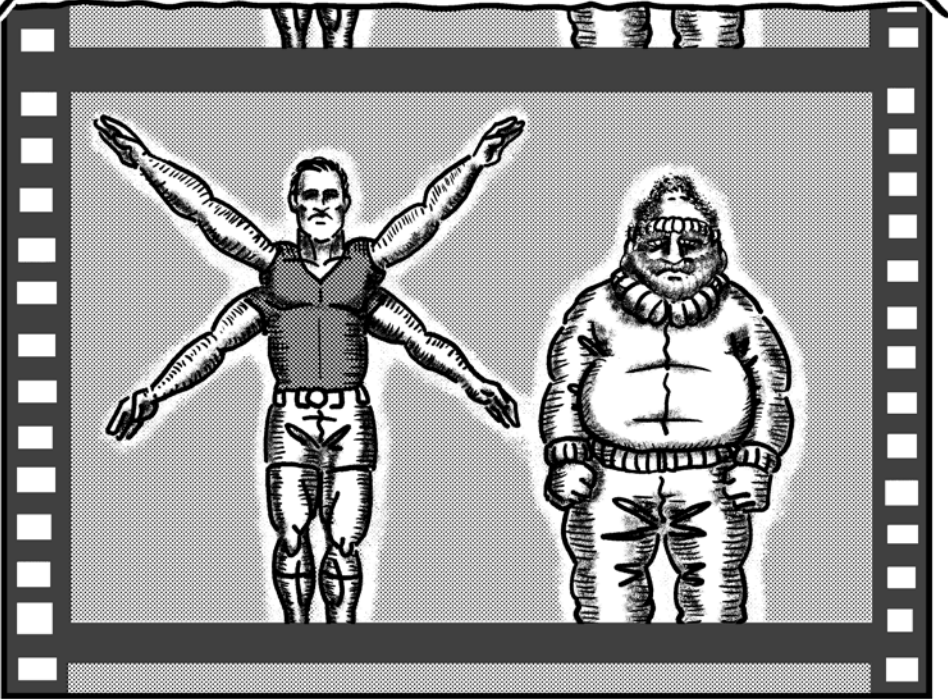
THE PROSPECT,
MR. PRESIDENT,
IS NOT GOOD.

PROFESSOR WILL
EXPLAIN THE CURRENT
SITUATION.

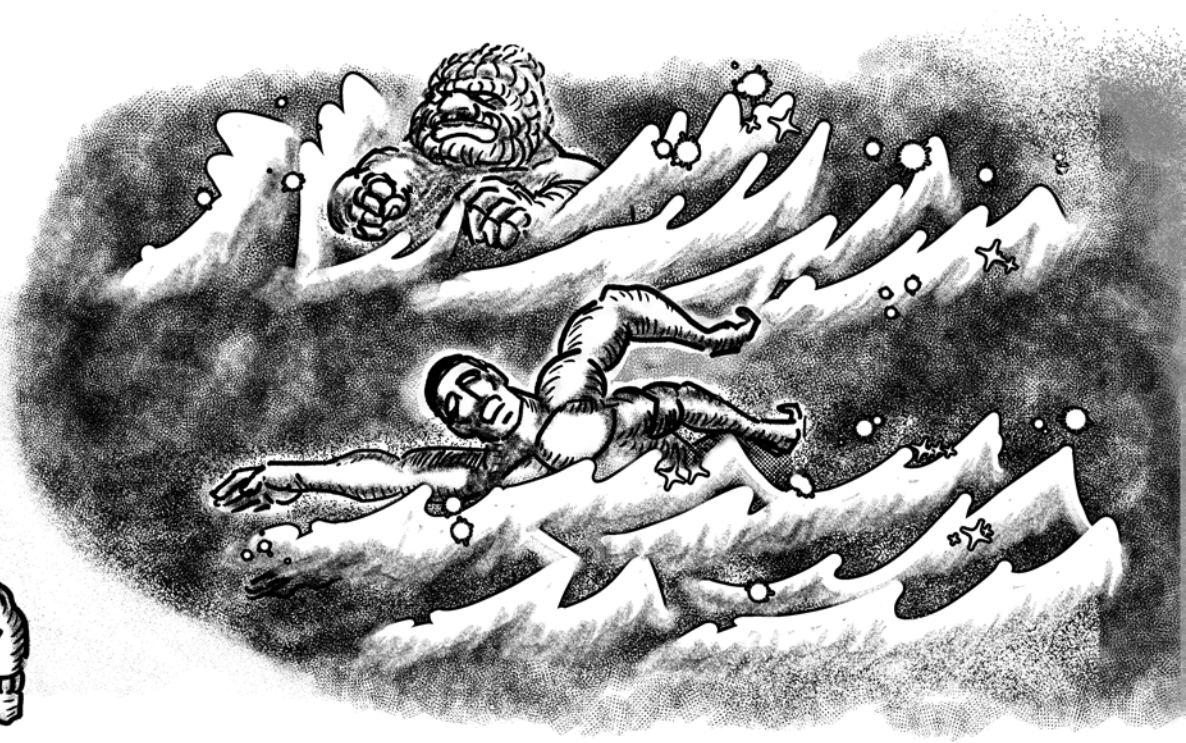




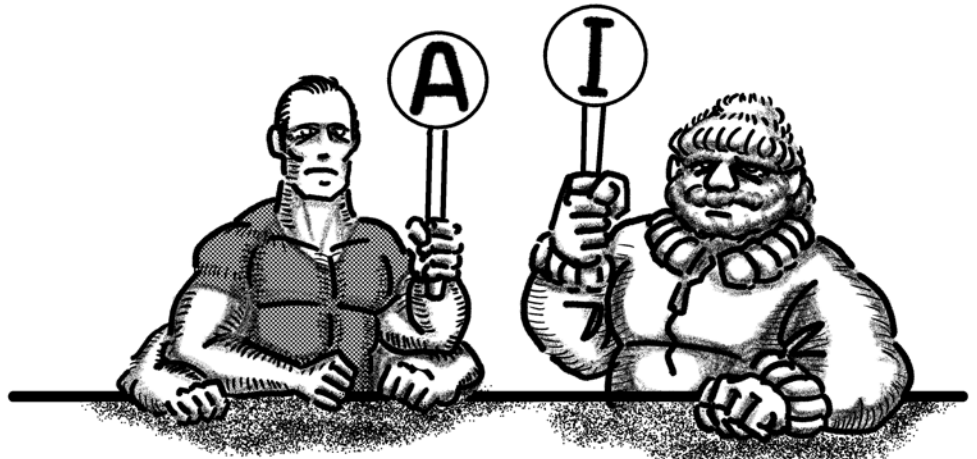
EXTENSIVE RESEARCHES ON
THE ABILITIES OF GALAXIANS.
IN SO DOING, WE COMPARED
AN AVERAGE GALAXIAN INDIVIDUAL
WITH AN AVERAGE HUMAN INDIVIDUAL.



THE OUTCOME IS
ASTOUNDING.
IN EVERY CATEGORY,



C ? T



THE AVERAGE GALAXIAN
IS SUPERIOR TO THE HUMAN
COUNTERPART BY 5 PERCENT !!

HMMM ...
5 PERCENT.

THEN, WE MAY
HAVE A CHANCE
IF WE SEND
OUR BEST.

AHH, MR. PRESIDENT,
GALAXIANS WILL
ALSO SEND THEIR BEST.

IN THAT CASE,
WE WILL SEND OUR
BEST OF THE BEST.

MR. BERG,
I WILL TALK.

THEN, THEY
WILL COUNTER
BY ...

MR. PRESIDENT,
I THINK YOU ARE
RIGHT ABOUT OUR
CURRENT SITUATION.

THIS IS "DO OR DIE".
IF WE DON'T FIGHT,
GALAXIANS WILL KILL
US ALL. SO, "FIGHT" IS
THE ONLY OPTION FOR US.

VERY WELL, PROFESSOR.
SO "FIGHT" WE WILL.

BY THE WAY, WHY DO
THEY LOOK SO MUCH
LIKE US, EXCEPT 4 ARMS?

CONVERGENCE?

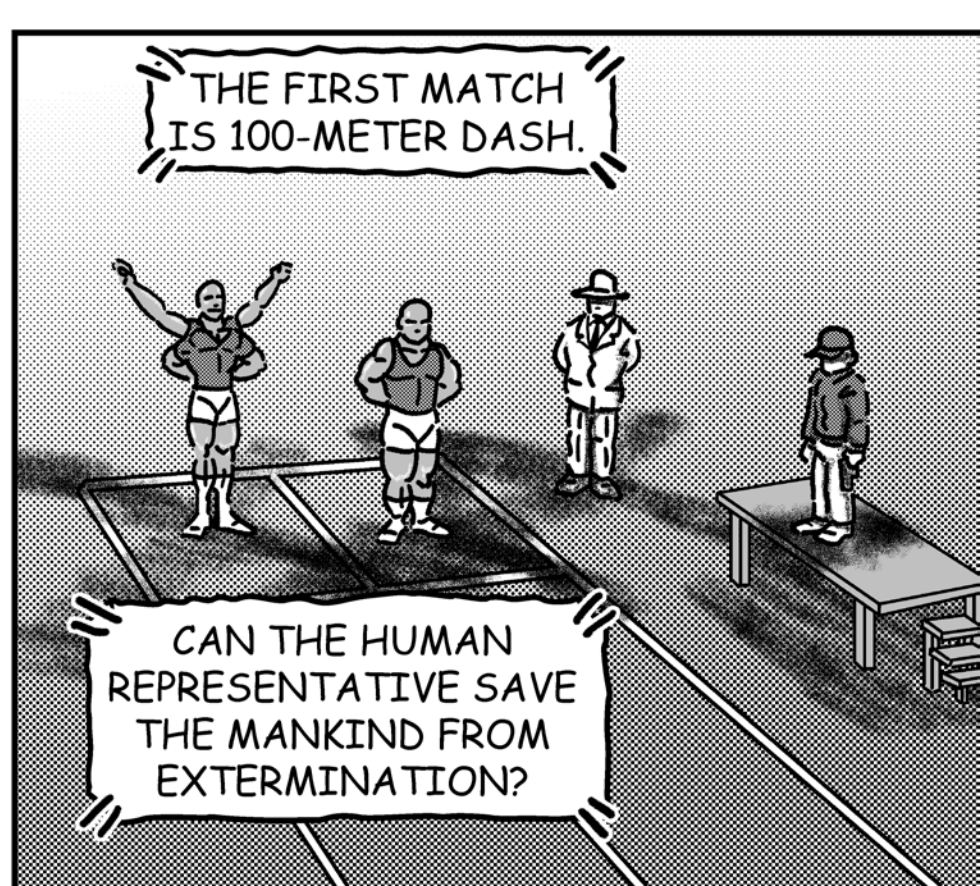
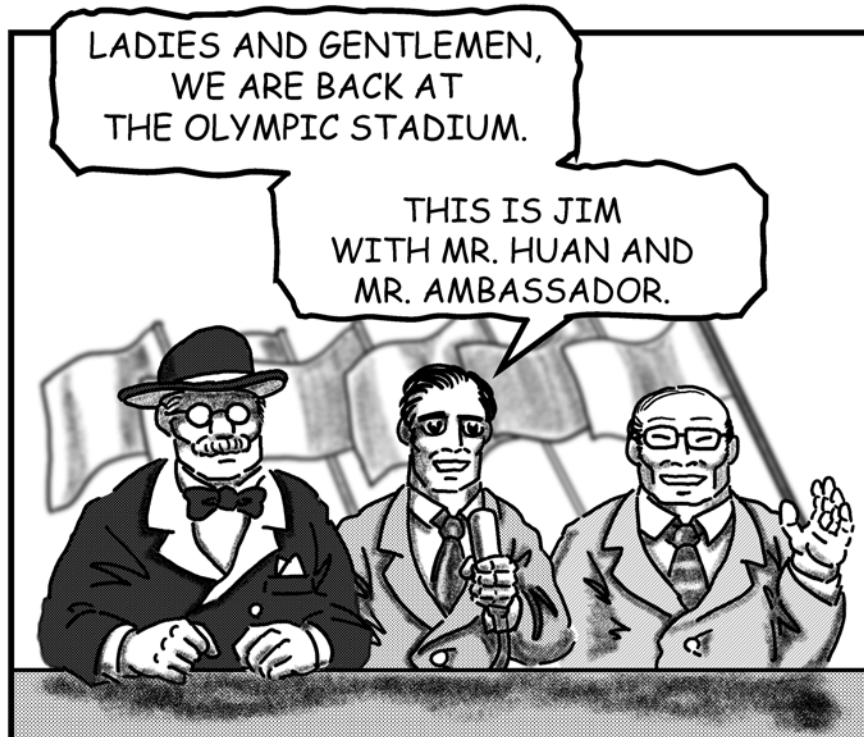
EVOLUTION?

MR. PRESIDENT,
THEY ARE INSECTS.

HAVE YOU EVER
HEARD OF
"CONVERGENT
EVOLUTION"?

"CONVERGENT
EVOLUTION" IMPLIES
THAT DIFFERENT
SPECIES COME
TO TAKE

A SIMILAR FORM
AS A RESULT OF
ADAPTION TO
THE SAME GIVEN
ENVIRONMENT.



REPRESENTING THE EARTH IS FREDDY "THE FLASH" FOSTER, WHO HAS NOT LOST A RACE IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS. YET,

HE LOOKS NERVOUS TODAY, AS IF BEARING A 800 BILLION LB GORILLA.

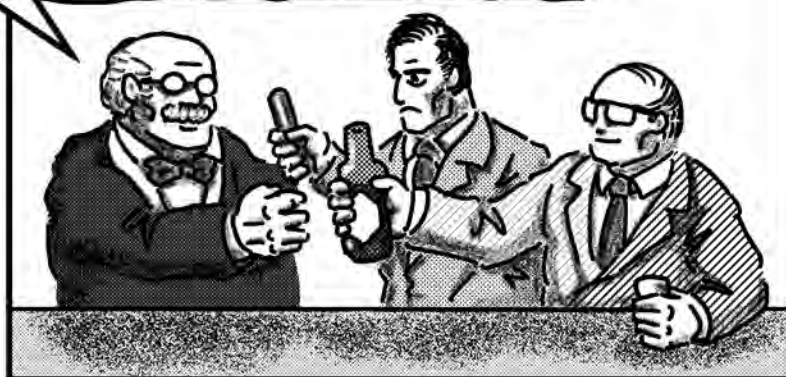


MR. H. H. OSMAN, WHO IS UNKNOWN TO US, REPRESENTS THE GALACTIC EMPIRE.

MR. AMBASSADOR, COULD YOU TELL US YOUR PREDICTION ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THE RACE?



MR. OSMAN HOLDS THE GALACTIC 100-METER DASH RECORD.



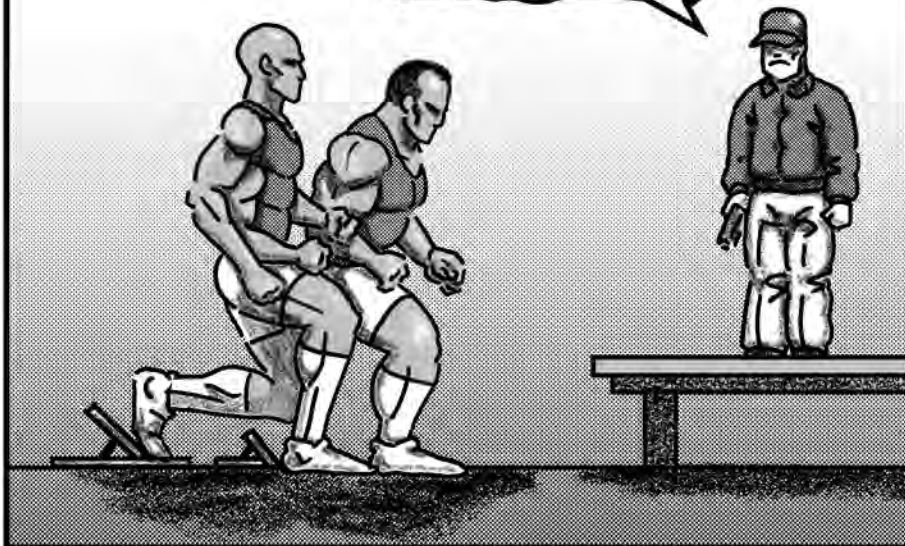
IF HE CAN REPLICATE HIS USUAL PERFORMANCE,



OSMAN WILL HAVE A GOOD CHANCE OF WINNING THE RACE.



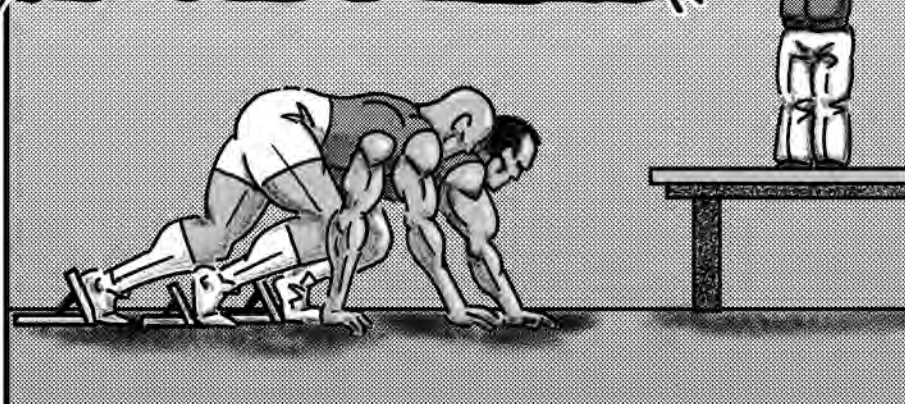
ON YOUR MARK.

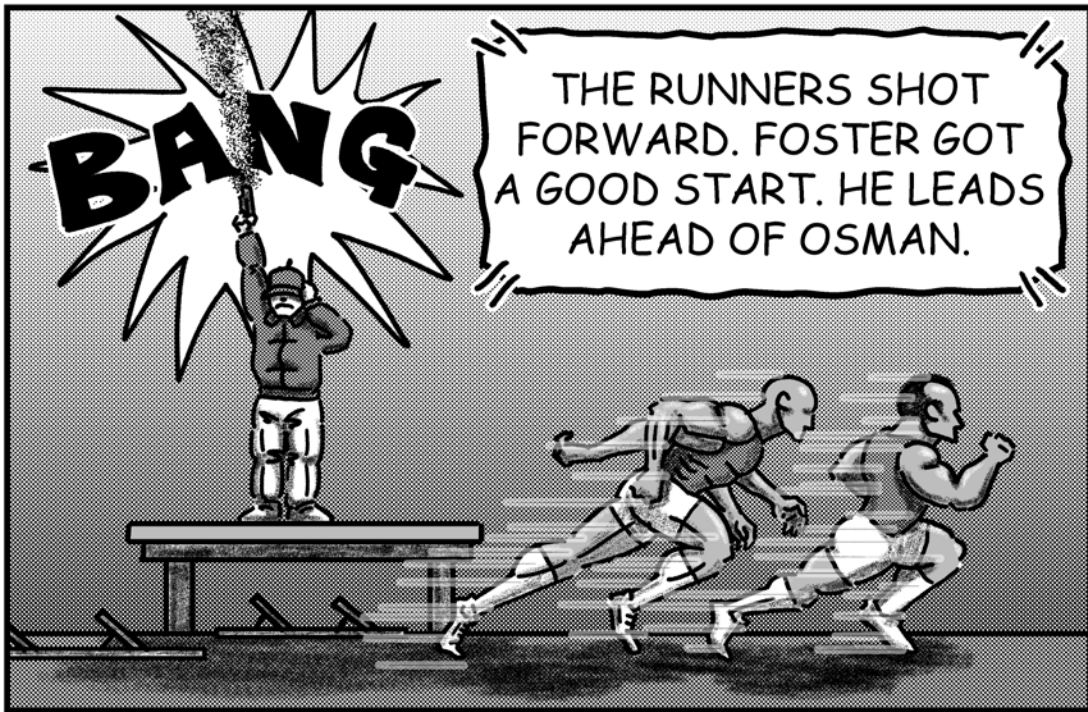


GET SET.

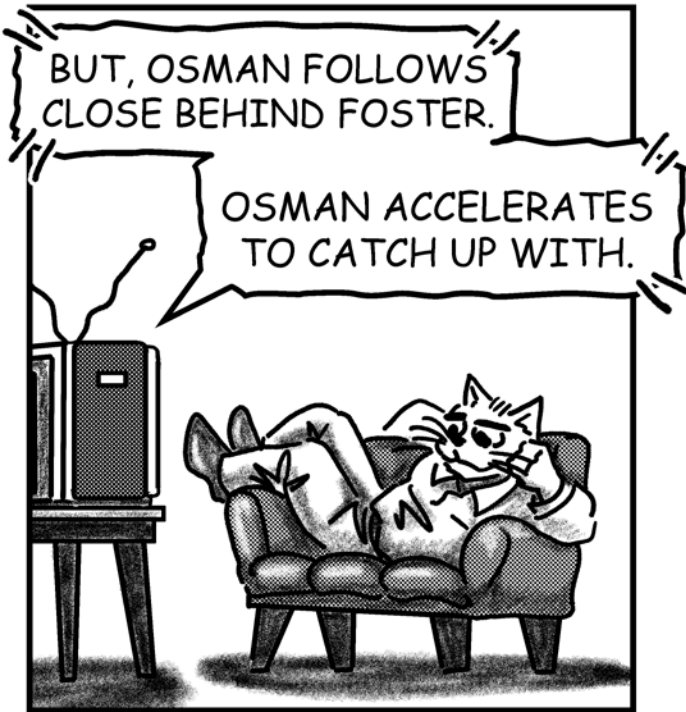
IN ANY CASE, WE CAN EXPECT AN INTERESTING RACE.

THE RUNNERS ARE ABOUT TO GO.

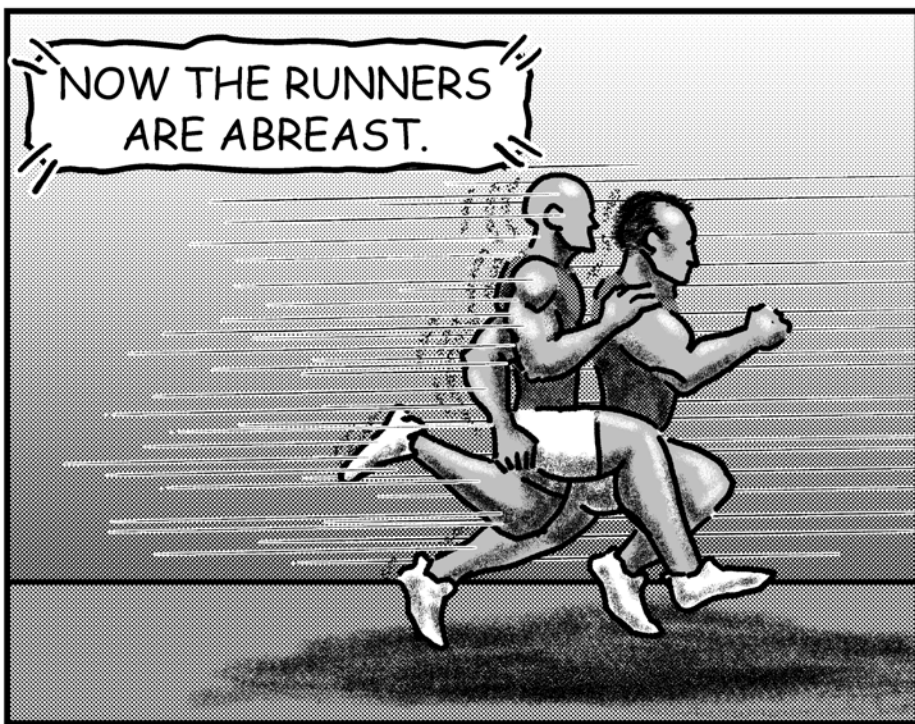




THE RUNNERS SHOT FORWARD. FOSTER GOT A GOOD START. HE LEADS AHEAD OF OSMAN.



BUT, OSMAN FOLLOWS CLOSE BEHIND FOSTER.
OSMAN ACCELERATES TO CATCH UP WITH.



NOW THE RUNNERS ARE ABREAST.



IT SEEMS OSMAN GOT A LEAD AHEAD OF FOSTER.



OSMAN FINISHES FIRST. FOSTER FALLS BEHIND, AND

FAILS TO SAVE HUMAN RACE FROM EXTERMINATION.

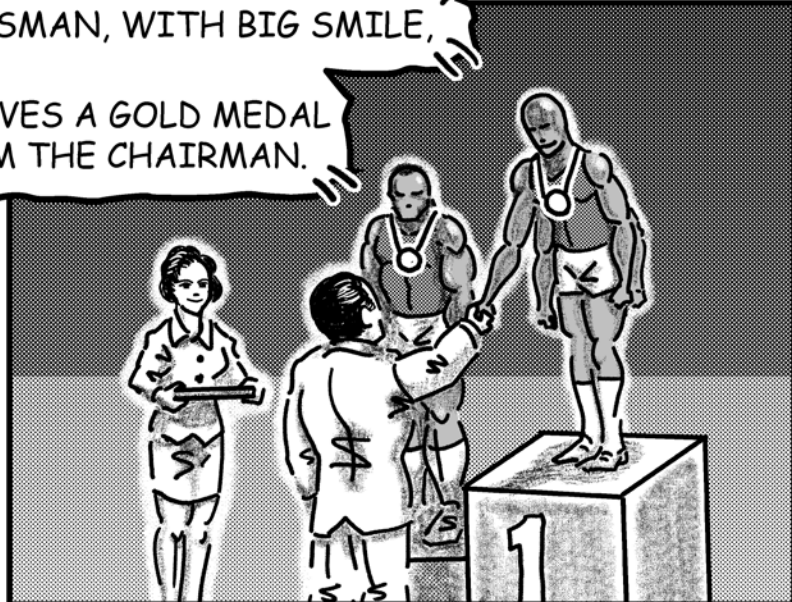
MR. OSMAN ESTABLISHED THE NEW OLYMPIC RECORD.



MR. FOSTER SEEMS DEVASTATED.

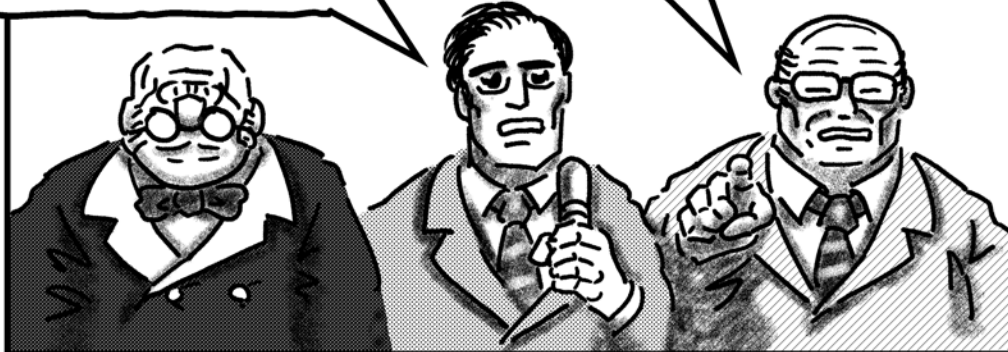
YEAH, THIS IS HIS FIRST LOSS IN 5 YEARS.

MR. OSMAN, WITH BIG SMILE, RECEIVES A GOLD MEDAL FROM THE CHAIRMAN.



MR. OSMAN WATCHES HIS FLAG
WHILE THE GALACTIC EMPIRE
ANTHEM BEING PERFORMED.

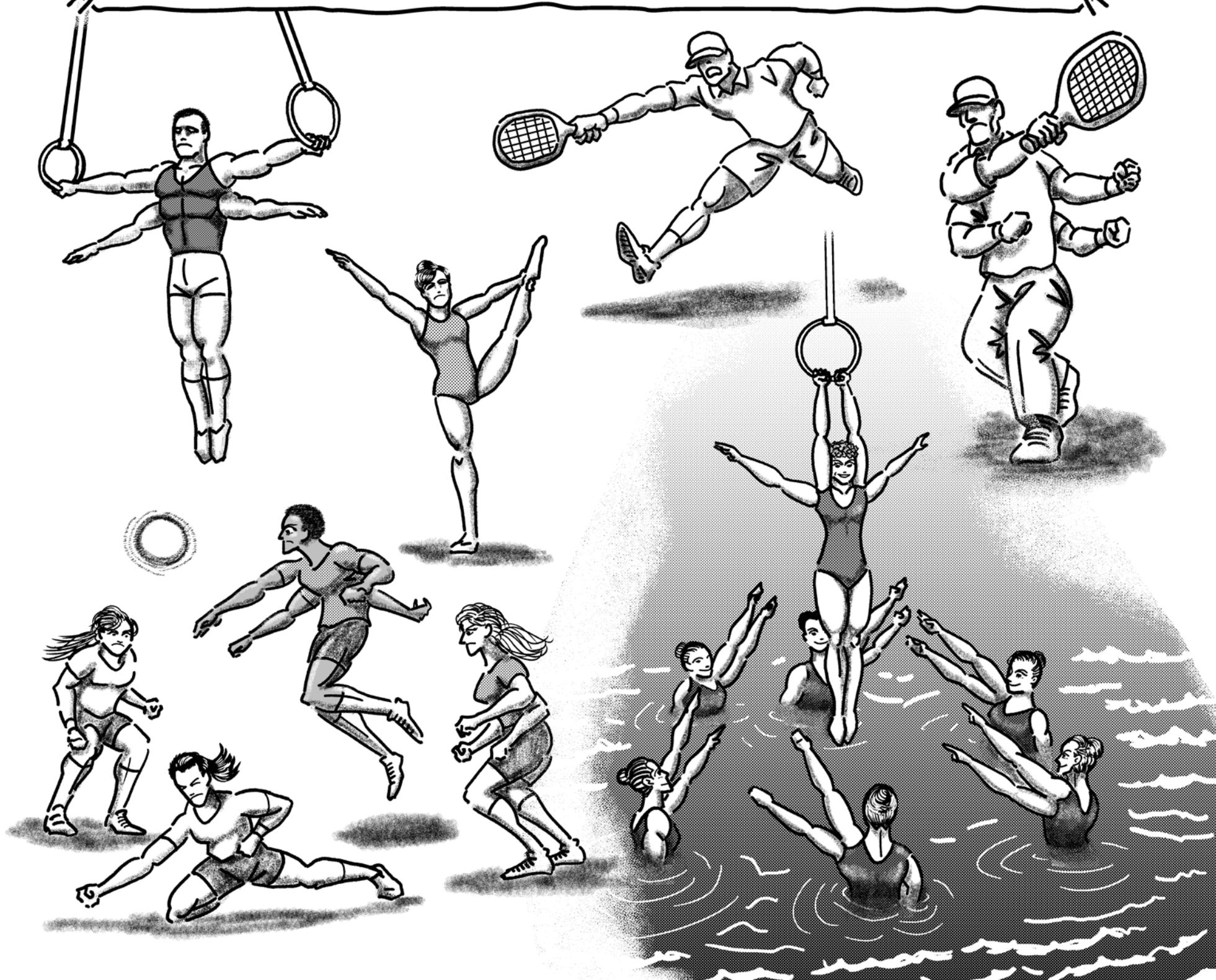
STAY TUNED FOR
THE NEXT EVENT.

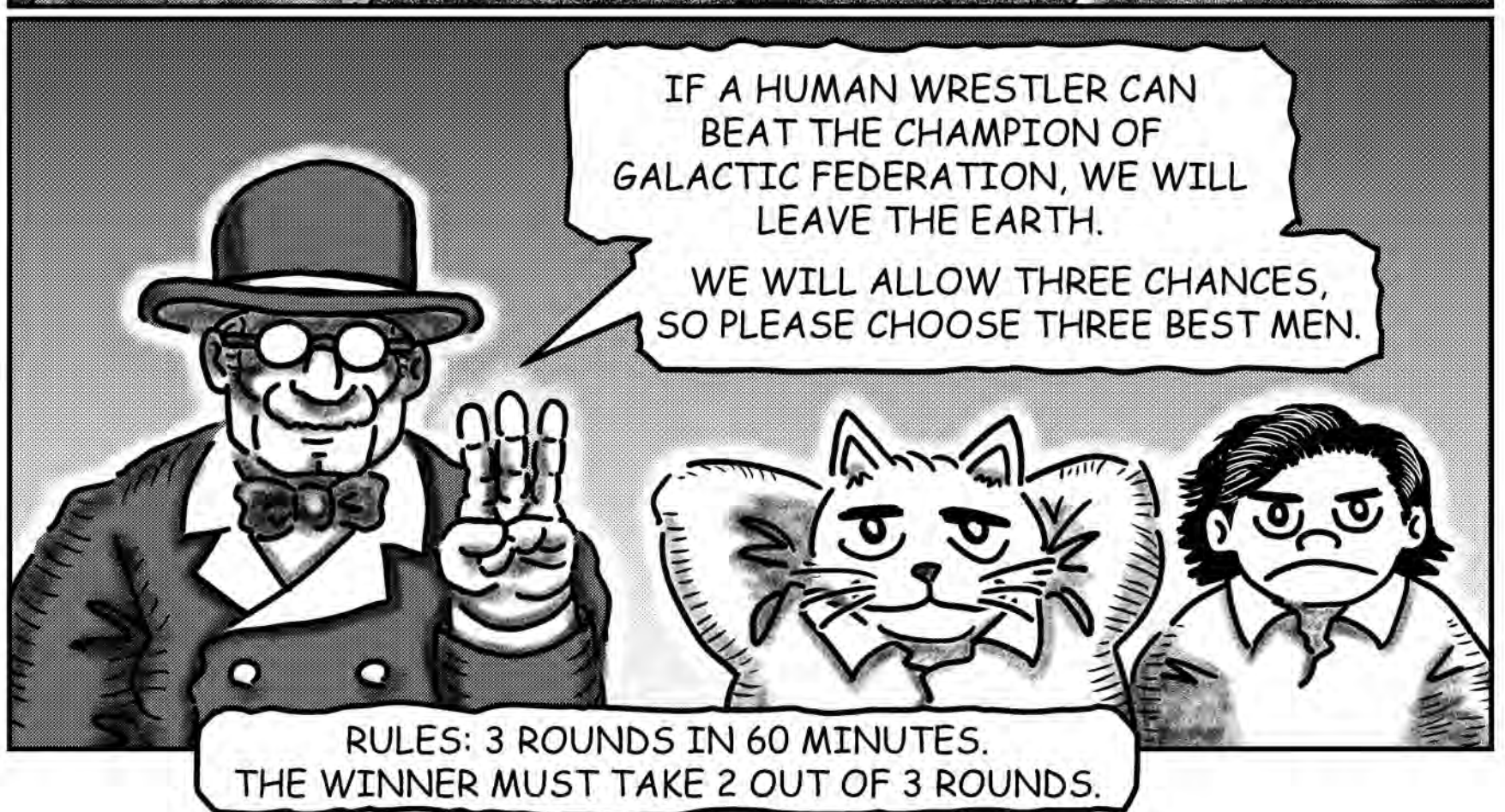
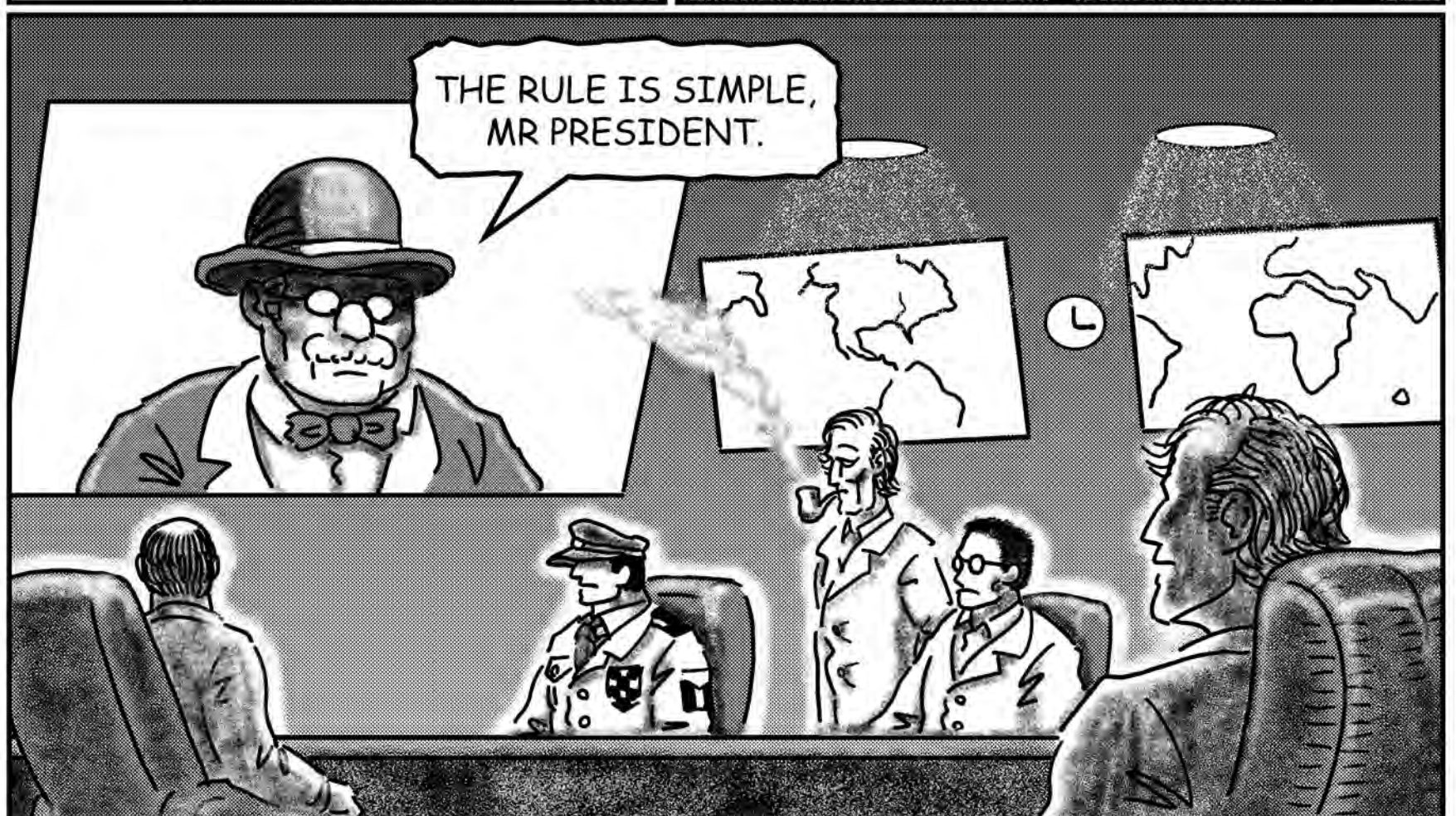
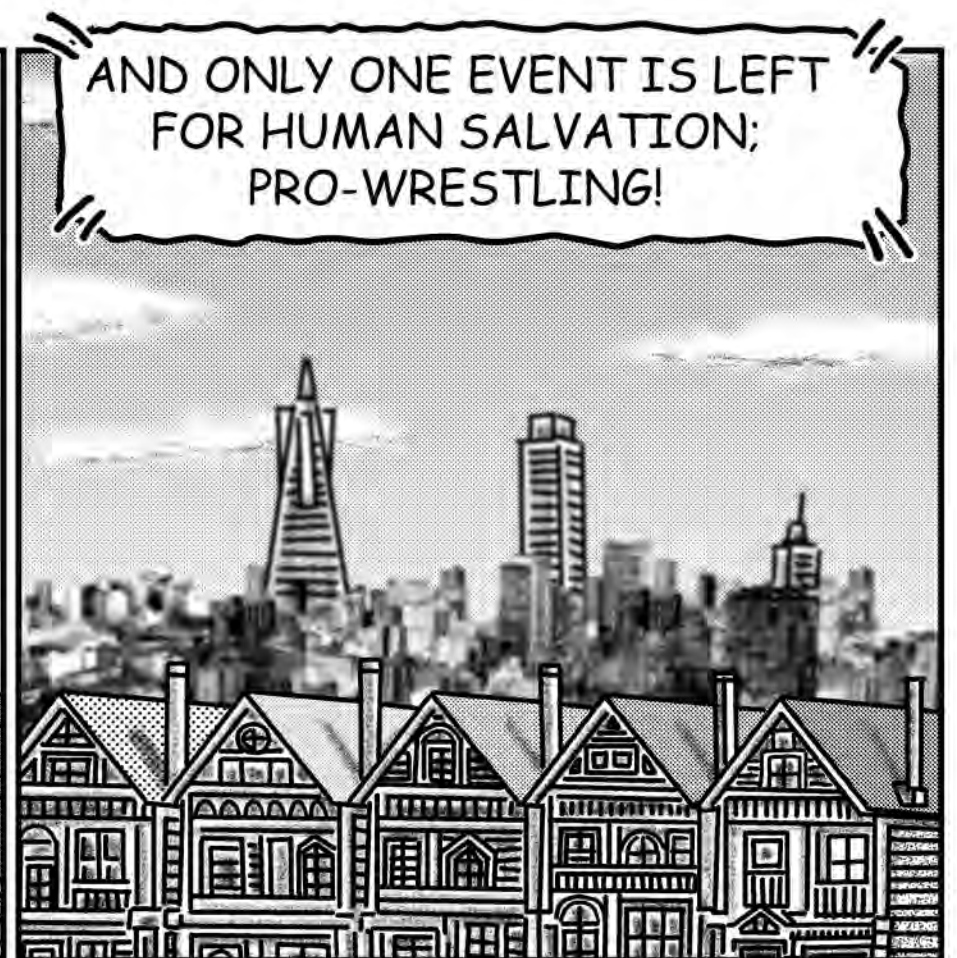
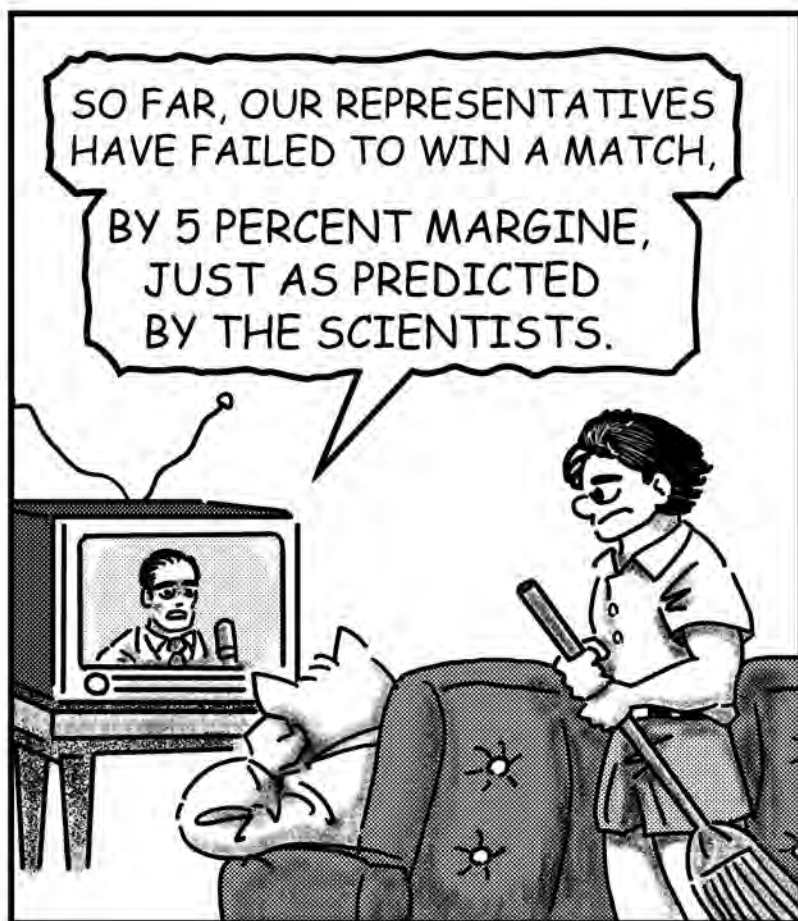


MR. PRESIDENT,
THE GAMES ARE
NOT OVER YET.



AFTER THE 100-METER DASH, HOWEVER, HUMAN ATHLETES ARE
UNABLE TO WIN ANY SINGLE MATCH DESPITE THE HARDEST EFFORT.





STANISLAV "THE EMPEROR" RYBCZNSKY

**GALACTIC FEDERATION
HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION**



**THE FIRST CHALLENGER
AFRICAN CONTINENTAL
HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION**



**MÖKELE-MBEMBE
"THE MISSISSIPPI NIGHTMARE"**

**THE SECOND CHALLENGER
ASIA-PACIFIC
HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION**



**SAMSON O'HARA
"THE APPALACHIAN BIG DADDY"**

THE THIRD CHALLENGER

**AMERICAN CONTINENTAL
HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION**



EL LOCO "THE NEUROTIC"